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## Korea, Republic of

### Livestock and Products

### U.S. - Korea Agree to Resume Beef Imports

### 2006

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**Report Highlights:**

The United States and the Republic of Korea reached an agreement to resume imports of deboned skeletal muscle meat from cattle less than 30 months of age. Actual imports will take place after the Korean government completes the rule making process and approval of U.S. meat establishments. This procedure is expected to be completed by the end of March 2006. The Korean government soon will provide names of the specific cuts that will be allowed to be imported.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Seoul [KS1]  
[KS]

<b>PRESS RELEASE</b> (Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry)	? Date: January 13, 2006 ? Provider: Animal Health Division, MAF ? Director: Chang-Seob Kim ? Deputy Dir: Ki-Yoon Chang ? Telephone: 500-1936
<b>Subject: Korea – United States Reach Agreement to Resume Imports Only for “Deboned Beef Under 30 Months” excluding short ribs, viscera, processed meat products, ground meat, etc.</b>	

- ? The Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry stated on January 13 that a final agreement was reached on conditions for importing only 'deboned skeletal muscle meat from animals that were slaughtered at less than 30 months of age.'
- The domestic beef market was fully liberalized in January, 2001. However, U.S. beef imports have been suspended for over 2 years due to the BSE outbreak in December 2003.
  - After the review whether to resume imports began in December 2004, the agreement on the sanitary conditions for resuming imports was reached after holding 3 rounds of bilateral U.S. – Korea technical consultations and 2 meetings among the Animal Health Committee members during the past year.
- ? It was this negotiation's utmost priority to take into consideration the safety of imported beef based on the international criteria regarding BSE as provided in the OIE provisions. As a result of the negotiations, the import conditions became stricter than prior to the import suspension, such as the exclusion of bone-in ribs, etc. (Please see attachment)
- ? Major points of the health requirement for the import of beef that were agreed upon during this negotiation are as follows:
- 1) The cut that will be allowed to be imported shall be limited to deboned skeletal muscle meat.
    - Accordingly, diaphragm (skirts), various offals (tongue, viscera, trimmings, cheek meat, etc.), processed meat products (sausages, hamburger patties, etc.), ground meat, etc., shall be excluded from the list of products to be allowed to be imported.
  - 2) The government of Korea may suspend imports of beef when it is judged that the U.S. BSE situation has worsened. However, the import shall not be suspended when a few cases of BSE are additionally detected in older cattle that were born prior to the effective implementation of the feed ban measures (April 1998).
  - 3) The meat establishments that are designated by the U.S. government shall be approved by Korea through an on-site inspection by Korean quarantine officials.
  - 4) All SRM (specified risk materials) shall be removed from beef exported to Korea, regardless of the cattle's age.
  - 5) The slaughtered cattle shall be born and raised in the United States or shall be cattle imported from Mexico (which is a country from which Korea allows imports of beef) in

accordance with U.S. import requirements and were resident in the United States for at least 100 days prior to slaughter.

- ? U.S. beef is expected to be imported around the end of March of this year when the series of import procedures are completed, such as the public notification of the draft and the publication of the final rule of the health requirement for imports, the on-site inspection of the export plants and their approval, etc.

<Procedures for resuming imports>

- ? Notification of proposal of import health conditions for the importation of U.S. beef (draft) and review by the committee on restrictive legal rules → comment gathering during the comment period → review of comments, finalization of the import health requirements, public notification of the final requirements (approval of the health certificates) → onsite inspection of U.S. meat establishments by Korean quarantine officials and approval of the establishments
- ? The Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry explained that it had been preparing measures, such as the introduction of country of origin labeling at restaurants and the earlier implementation of a beef traceability system in order to address consumers' concerns over beef safety and to mitigate the shocks to the Hanwoo cattle industry resulting from the resumption of U.S. beef imports.
- ? Taking into consideration its experience from the liberalization of beef trade in 2001, the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry also explained that it will continue to promote measures, such as expansion of the roughage feed production base, enhanced control of brucellosis, stabilization of farm management through a strengthened livestock check-off program, improvement of meat quality, and improved branded beef programs, etc. in order to use these circumstances as an opportunity to further improve the Hanwoo industry.
- ? Furthermore, at the request of the Korean side, it was promised that the ongoing procedures for allowing the import of Korean ginseng chicken soup into the United States would proceed expeditiously.

&lt;Attachment&gt;

**Chronology of U.S. Beef Negotiations**

- Import prohibition of U.S. beef due to the BSE outbreak on December 24, 2003.
- First U.S. – Korea BSE Technical Talks (February 28, 2005)
- Second U.S. – Korea BSE Technical Talks (April 19 – 21, 2005)
  - \* NGO representatives visit United States (May 8-15, 2005)
- Third U.S. – Korea BSE Technical Talks and onsite visits (June 5 -12, 2005)
- First and second meeting among members of the Animal Health Committee (November 29, 2005 and December 14, 2005)
- Negotiations between U.S. and Korea on conditions for import resumption (January 9-13, 2006)

**Comparison of Import Health Requirements (Summary)**

	Prior to Import Suspension	Agreement Made At this meeting	Remarks
Products allowed for imports	No restrictions (bone-in products, such as ribs, offals and processed meat products such as hamburger patties, etc.)	Bone-in ribs, offals such as viscera, and processed meat products are excluded. - import permitted for only deboned skeletal muscle meat.	Japan allows bone-in meat and offals
Age of slaughtered animals	No restrictions	Less than 30 months	OIE's provisions call for 30 months or less
Measures to be taken in case of another BSE outbreak	Import suspension	Import suspension. However, cattle born in April 1998 or before are exempted.	Japan does not have any provisions regarding import suspension.

\* It was promised that the ongoing procedures for allowing the import of Korean ginseng chicken soup into the United States would proceed expeditiously.